

**CLAIMS:**

1. A headgear for a respiratory mask, the headgear comprising:  
a plurality of strap portions, the plurality of strap portions as a unit being positionable in a first position in which the headgear is donned by a wearer and in a second position in which the headgear is not donned by the wearer,  
the plurality of strap portions being configured such that, in the first position, upon tensioning, the plurality of straps conform to a shape of the wearer's head, and in the second position, the plurality of straps resist collapse and retain their shape in a configuration generally approximating the shape of the wearer's head.
2. A headgear as in claim 1, wherein the plurality of straps include at least one sagittal strap portion configured to extend along a vertex of a head of the wearer, a pair of horizontal strap portions each configured to extend partially circumferentially around the wearer's head and to be disposed just inferiorly to an ear of the wearer, and a pair or coronal strap portions interconnecting the at least one sagittal strap portion and the horizontal strap portions.
3. A headgear as in any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the plurality of strap portions are adjustable relative to one another.
4. A headgear as in any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the plurality of strap portions are formed as a one piece unit.
5. A headgear as in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the plurality of strap portions, as said unit, have a generally cap-like configuration in the first and second positions.

6. A headgear as in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein at least one, and preferable all, of the plurality of strap portions includes a first layer and a second layer, the second layer positioned on an interior of the headgear toward the wearer, wherein the first layer is formed of a substantially inextensible material, such as PVC, leather, polypropylene and polyurethane, and the second layer is formed of a relatively soft material, such as felt.
7. A headgear for a respiratory mask, said headgear comprising:  
at least one strap portion configured to wrap around a portion of a wearer's head, said at least one strap portion being made of a substantially inextensible material; and  
an elongate member provided to an end portion of the at least one strap, the elongate member being configured to allow a spacing distance between the strap and mask to be varied.
8. A headgear as in claim 7, wherein the elongate member is a threaded member and the headgear further comprises a threaded fastener provided to the threaded member to allow adjustment of the spacing distance.
9. A headgear as in claim 7, wherein the elongate member is a cord or string and the headgear further comprises a spring clip provided to the string or cord to allow adjustment of the spacing distance.
10. A headgear as in any one of claims 7 to 9, wherein the elongate member is provided to the at least one strap portion with an adhesive, by stitching, or it is formed integrally or in one piece with the at least strap portion.

11. A mask for use with a ventilator or a CPAP device, comprising:  
a frame; and  
a cushion provided to the frame, the cushion and the frame being selectively adjustable relative to one another in one or more discrete portions, to thereby tailor the cushion to actively conform with a wearer's facial contour.
12. A mask as in claim 11, in which the frame includes at least one connecting structure connected to a selected discrete portion of the discrete portions of the cushion, the connecting structure including an end fixed to the selected discrete portion, said connecting structure being movable relative to the frame to thereby adjust the relative position between the frame and the cushion, and therefore the cushion and the wearer's face.
13. A mask as in claim 12, wherein the frame includes two wall structures which are spaced apart with a gap there between, and an adjustment device positioned within the gap and accessible along the periphery of the frame, the connecting structure being threadedly coupled to the adjustment device to allow movement of the end of the connecting structure, and therefore the selected discrete portion of the cushion, towards and away from the frame.
14. A mask as in any one of claims 11 to 13, wherein the cushion comprises a foam covered by a silicone skin.
15. A mask as in any one of claims 11 to 14, wherein the frame is substantially or partially encapsulated within the material of the mask.

16. A mask for use with a ventilator or CPAP device, comprising:  
a frame; and  
a cushion provided to the frame, the frame begin at least partially encapsulated within the material of the cushion.
17. A mask as in claim 16, wherein the frame is made of a relatively thin metallic material which is selectively deformable, and preferably microdeformable.
18. A mask as in any one of claims 16 and 17, wherein the frame includes connecting members extending exterior to the material of the cushion, each of the connecting members including an aperture to receive a connecting structure of a strap portion of headgear.
19. A mask assembly for a wearer using a ventilator or CPAP device, the mask assembly comprising:  
a headgear;  
a mask provided to the headgear, the mask including a frame and a cushion;  
means to adjust the frame/mask relative to the wearer's head;  
means to adjust the headgear to the frame; and  
means to adjust the frame relative to the mask.
20. A mask assembly for use with a ventilator or CPAP device, comprising:  
a mask;  
a headgear provided to the mask with at least one fastener with an adjustable setting;  
and

a quick release mechanism to allow removal of the mask assembly from a wearer without removing any portion of the headgear from the mask or changing the setting of the fastener.

21. A mask as in claim 20, in which the quick release mechanism includes a pair of connecting arms provided to the frame, each of the connecting arms including a first arm portion and a second arm portion movable with respect to one another, the first arm portion being provided to the frame and the second arm portion including a first end connected to the first arm portion and a second end provided to a strap portion of the headgear.

22. A mask as in claim 21, wherein the first and second arm portions are movable between a released position in which the wearer can don and remove the mask assembly and a latched position in which a sufficient seal is created between the mask and the wearer's face.

23. A mask as in claim 22, wherein each said second arm portion is movable into an over-center relation with respect to the first arm portion such that no additional connecting structures are required to maintain the connecting arms in the latched position.